

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 - 20 (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A method of routing an emergency request message from an Internet device through the Internet to an emergency call answering center connected to a Public Service Access Point (PSAP), comprising the steps of:

routing the emergency request message to an emergency call handling function configured to determine the IP address of the Internet device;

utilizing the IP address of the Internet device to obtain a physical location from accounting information registered with an Internet Service Provider providing the Internet device access to the Internet;

encapsulating the physical location information within a PSAP message; and

sending the emergency request message through Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) to a PSAP in an emergency response service zone serving the Internet device.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the step of encapsulating the physical location associated with the IP address in a PSAP message, further comprises the PSAP message including a telephone number for the PSAP assigned to the service zone covering the physical location.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, further comprising routing the PSAP message via a PSTN gateway into the PSTN and on to an appropriate central office or a selected PSAP.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the PSAP message is routed to the central office and the PSAP closest to the physical location associated with the Internet device.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the Internet device has a static IP address.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein an IP address is dynamically assigned to the Internet device when logging on to the ISP.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the Internet device is a terminal in a local area network (LAN).

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the required registration information associated with the IP address is contained in a database that includes account information required by the ISP to provide the Internet device access to the Internet, the information being associated with a user or subscriber and the Internet device.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the emergency call handling function is included within the PSTN gateway and the gateway, using a protocol compatible with the emergency call answering center,

formats a message containing the physical location associated with the Internet device.

30. (Previously Presented) A system for routing an emergency request message from an Internet device through an Internet Protocol (IP) network to an emergency call answering center connected to a Public Service Access Point (PSAP), comprising:

routing means for routing the emergency request message to an emergency call handling function configured to determine the IP address of the Internet device;

means for utilizing the IP address of the Internet device to obtain a physical location from accounting information registered with an Internet Service Provider providing the Internet device access to the Internet;

encapsulation means for encapsulating the physical location information within a PSAP message; and

means for sending the emergency request message through a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) to a PSAP in an emergency response service zone serving the Internet device.

31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30 wherein means for encapsulating the physical location associated with the IP address in a PSAP message, further comprises the PSAP message including a telephone number for the PSAP assigned to a service zone covering the physical location.

32. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 31, further comprising means for routing the PSAP message via a PSTN gateway into the PSTN and on to an appropriate central office or a selected PSAP.

33. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 32, wherein the PSAP message is routed to the central office and the PSAP closest to the physical location associated with the Internet device.

34. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30, wherein the Internet device has a static IP address.

35. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30 wherein an IP address is dynamically assigned to the Internet device when logging on to the ISP.

36. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 35 wherein the Internet device is a terminal in a local area network (LAN).

37. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30, wherein the required registration information associated with the IP address is contained in a database that includes account information required by the ISP to provide the Internet device access to the Internet, the information being associated with a user or subscriber and the Internet device.

38. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 32 wherein the emergency call handling function is included within the PSTN gateway and
the PSTN gateway, using a protocol compatible with the emergency call answering center, is adapted for formatting a message containing the physical location associated with the Internet device.

39. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 30 wherein said emergency call handling function is a separate element outside the IP network maintained by a third party administrator.